

THE HONOURABLE C.E. HINKSON
CHIEF JUSTICE
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THE SUPREME COURT
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

THE LAW COURTS
800 SMITHE STREET
VANCOUVER, B. C.
V6Z 2E1

March 1, 2021

Dean Lawton, Q.C., President
Law Society of British Columbia
845 Cambie Street
Vancouver BC V6B 4Z9

Jennifer Brun, President
The Canadian Bar Association – BC Branch
10th Floor, 845 Cambie Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 5T3

D. Michael Bain, Q.C., Editor
The Advocate
709 – 1489 Marine Drive
West Vancouver BC V7T 1B8

Dear Mr. Lawton, Ms. Brun, and Mr. Bain:

Re: *Support for Junior Counsel*

I write at the instance of the British Columbia Regional Advisory Committee of the Advocates' Society, to offer the support of the Supreme Court of British Columbia to a proposal to enhance the advocacy skills of counsel.

We endorse the view of the Advocates' Society that the development of advocacy skills on the part of counsel before the Court is essential to the proper functioning of the Court's process.

In order to facilitate that development, the Court encourages the active involvement of more junior counsel in trials and other proceedings. Where more than one counsel appear for a party on a matter, senior counsel should look for opportunities to allow junior counsel to handle witnesses, motions or discrete portions of arguments.

During the pandemic, the ability of counsel and the Court to accommodate this proposal will be constrained by social distancing and courtroom capacity requirements, but we are hopeful that the proposal could be embraced by the Bar, and begun as we await what we all hope will be our ability to return to more accustomed practices.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C.E. Hinkson', written in a cursive style.

Chief Justice C.E. Hinkson
Supreme Court of British Columbia

cc: The Honourable Chief Justice Robert Bauman
The Honourable Chief Judge Melissa Gillespie